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Federal Jury Clears Two Cigaret Companies In $150,000 Cancer Suit

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL *Staff Reporter*

NEW ORLEANS—A jury in Federal District Court composed of seven smokers and five non-smokers ruled in favor of two major tobacco companies in a $150,000 cigaret cancer suit. The jury deliberated 1 hour and 40 minutes.

It cleared the Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co. and the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. of responsibility in a suit brought by Mrs. Victoria St. Pierre Lartigue. Mrs. Lartigue asserted that her husband, Frank J. Lartigue, died in 1955 at 65 years of age of cancer caused by excessive cigaret smoking.

Mrs. Lartigue's attorney, H. Alva Brumfield, argued that Lartigue had smoked heavily since he was nine years old and that he brought on his own death by the use of products they (tobacco companies) held out to be pure and safe."

The defense argued the claims were "extravagent and exaggerated."

During the four-week trial the defense brought out that Mr. Lartigue had suffered from a number of ailments which could have contributed to his contracting lung cancer. Both sides brought in experts to testify.

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/mjbm0000